

**REMARKS**

Claims 8-17 are now present in this application.

Claim 8 has been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has repeatedly been asked to acknowledge the claim for priority, as well as receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. **Once again, the Examiner is requested to acknowledge the claim for priority and receipt of the priority document.**

Claims 8 and 10-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Regele et al, US Patent 6,374,455. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Regele et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The patent to Regele et al discloses a fastener grommet. The Examiner has relied upon the second embodiment in Figures 2, 2a and 2b to reject the claims. In this embodiment, a flange member 25 has an axially extending portion 27 which the Examiner has equated to the internal cylindrical member of the present invention. The separate first flange member 24a of Regele et al has a axially extended portion 35 with gaps 37. The portion 35 has been equated to the external cylindrical member of the present invention.

This arrangement of Regele et al, however, is different from the present invention. The one-piece tubular receptacle of the present invention has a base, an external cylindrical member and an internal cylindrical member. Both the external cylindrical member and the internal cylindrical member are recited as being mounted directly on and in contact with the base. The

external cylindrical member 35 of Regele et al is separate from and not in contact with the base 82(a).

Because the Regele et al fastener grommet clamps an item 26 between the two pieces 24, 25, it would not be obvious to modify this grommet to have the elements identified by the Examiner as the external and internal cylindrical members mounted directly on and in contact with the base. If this were done, the Regele et al device would not longer function as intended.

Other claims bring out other distinctions from this Regele et al reference. For example, dependent claim 11 brings out that the hinged member moves away from the internal cylindrical member upon insertion of the second structure onto the internal cylindrical member. The gaps 37 of Regele et al are to accommodate the portions 35 through openings 29c. The hinged members are not designed to dig into the body of the first structure of furniture as recited in claim dependent 13.

Dependent claim 15 brings out the second member is screwable onto the threaded internal cylindrical member to cam the hinged member to outwardly engage sides of the bore. While the Examiner notes a method claim is not recited, operation of the structure of the present invention is brought out. The Regele et al grommet is simply not designed to have the same structure which operates as the present invention does.

Nonetheless, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 8 is neither suggested nor rendered obvious by the utilized prior art. As such, the 35 USC 102(b) and 103 rejections should now be reconsidered and withdrawn. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/671,733  
Amendment dated July 24, 2006 (Monday)  
After Final Office Action mailed March 22, 2006

Docket No.: 3587-0112P

In the event the Examiner does not consider this application to be in condition for allowance, it is requested that this Amendment be entered for the purposes of Appeal. This amendment should clarify the claimed tubular receptacle and overcome the current grounds of rejection. However, it is not expected that the instant application will proceed to Appeal since it should now be in condition for allowance.

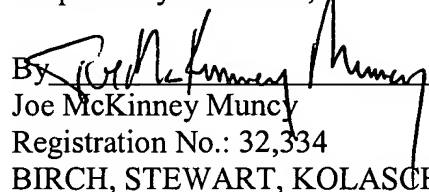
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 703-205-8000 in the Washington, DC area if any matters remain outstanding in this application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$120.00 is attached herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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